

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

XMT AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055625

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUNNY MARCH 23, FROM
PANAMA REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1659

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNSC PN

SUBJ: SC MEETING IN PANAMA

REF: STATE 053264

FROM USDEL

1. AMBASSADORS HAVING ALREADY DEPARTED PANAMA CITY, POL COUNS
OFFERS FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT ON SC MEETING IN PANAMA.

2. U. S. EMERGED FROM SC MEETING WITH IMPORTANT GAINS AND
IMPORTANT LOSSES, BALANCE TO BE STRUCK OVER MONTHS AHEAD. ON
DEBIT SIDE UN ATTENTION WAS CLEARLY FOCUSED ON CANAL ZONE AS
" COLONIAL " ISSUE. EXPECT ISSUE WILL RECUR ON AGENDA OF UN
FORUMS, AND IN ANY CASE IT WILL REMAIN IN AWARENESS OF THOSE
DELEGATIONS WHO ATTENDED EITHER AS PARTICIPANTS OR AS OBSERVERS.
PENDING MORE SYSTEMATIC CANVASS OF THIS OPINION, BELIEVE
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DOMINANT IMPRESSIONS ARE: A) CANAL ZONE IS ANACHRONISTIC, COLONIAL ENCLAVE; B) U. S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN CZ, REGARDLESS OF CANAL DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS, REPRESENTS PROJECTION OF U. S. MILITARY POWER BEYOND ITS BORDERS.

3. TWO CLEAR PLUSSES HAVE EMERGED. ENTIRE UN COMMUNITY HAS BEEN REMINDED THAT U. S. ADMINISTRATION CANNOT BE MOVED TO COMPROMISE BY RHETORIC OR CASUAL INTERNATIONAL OPINION WHERE RIGHT AND NATIONAL INTEREST ARE INVOLVED. ANOTHER PLUS IS THAT AMBASSADOR SCALI ESTABLISHED IMAGE AS ARTICULATE, TOUGH- MINDED ADVOCATE OF PRESIDENT'S POLICIES, FIRM WITHOUT TRUCULENCE IN DEFENSE OF U. S. POSITIONS, BUT EQUALLY FIRM IN ATTACHMENT TO U. S. IDEALS. WHILE OUR VETO OF ISSUE ADVANCED BY VERY SMALL STATE IS REPRESENTED BY SOME AS ABUSE OF POWER BY GIANT EVEN THOSE THAT FELT U. S. RELATIVELY UNCOMPROMISING ON CANAL RESOLUTION (AND THESE DOUBTLESS INCLUDE FRIENDS AS WELL AS CRITICS) MUST CREDIT US WITH TEMPERATE CONDUCT BOTH IN CORRIDORS AND ON FLOOR.

4. WHILE U. S. DEL WOULD DEFER TO LA EXPERTS FOR ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT OF MEETINGS IN LATIN AMERICAN STATES, WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT ABOVE OBSERVATIONS APPLY ABOUT AS WELL TO LA ATTENDANTS OF SC MEETING AS TO THOSE FROM OTHER REGIONS. ON OTHER ISSUES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO LA, WE CAN AT THIS TIME HAVE ONLY TENTATIVE AND IMPRESSIONISTIC OBSERVATIONS TO OFFER.

5. CUBA ALMOST CERTAINLY IMPROVED ITS IMAGE AMONG LA DELEGATIONS TO IMPORTANT DEGREE. ROA BEHAVIOR BOTH ON AND OFF FLOOR DEMONSTRATED THAT CUBANS COULD SOUND TRUE TO THEIR REVOLUTIONARY PHILOSOPHY WITHOUT SEEMING REALLY ALIEN TO LA OR REMINDING COMMUNITY OF HISTORY OF DIRECT SUPPORT FOR SUBVERSION.

6. NO NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN ON MULTI- NATIONAL CORPORATIONS ISSUE. AT RISK WISHFUL THINKING, WOULD SUGGEST LA COMMUNITY WAS PROJECTED FURTHER ALONG ROAD OF BOREDOM WITH ISSUE WHICH DELEGATIONS EXPECT TO OCCASION ONLY CONVENTIONAL RHETORIC IN FUTURE.

7. ALSO BELIEVE TACK'S DIATRIBE ON U. S. AID MADE LITTLE IMPACT ON THINKING OF LA DELEGATES ALTHOUGH HIS SYMPATHIZERS DOUBTLESS CREDITED HIM WITH CLEVER ADVOCACY. SAYRE UNQUOTE ROGERS

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